Special Operations Team

The Special Operations Team (SOT) is comprised of two ten-man squads and the team leader. The SOT is responsible for a rapid ready response to critical incidents outside the training and weapons capability of the patrol divisions such as hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, tubular assaults, active threats, high-risk arrest/search warrants, narcotics search warrants, vehicle takedowns, and maritime operations. Due to ever expanding international and domestic terrorist threats, the Special Operations Team has received specialized training in Weapons of Mass Destruction and anti-terrorism response, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive), and HAZMAT operations.

All members of the Special Operations Team are DCJS certified instructors in a variety of specialties; they work hand in hand with the Training Unit to provide professional training to other members of the department as well as outside agencies. Taking a proactive stance with Homeland Security, the Special Operations Team is responsible for identifying critical assets to the city's infrastructure and procuring information to better assist them for quick and efficient responses to critical incidents. These assets include schools, City Hall, power plants, public utilities, shipyards, NIT, Scope and other public venues. SOT assists the Harbor Patrol Unit in providing security for LPG tanker ships. They also provide observation and reaction teams for major events such as Harborfest and the Grand Illumination Parade. The SOT has had extensive training in the Incident Command System and has partnered with various state, local and federal agencies in order to prepare for and effectively manage large incidents.